

Louisiana Office of Public Health Laboratories	
Test Name	Bacteriological Examination of Shellfish
PHL Location	Central Laboratory
CPT Code	N/A
Synonyms	N/A
Brief Description of Test	Oysters are received in the shell and must be shucked. This process uses the Multiple Tube Fermentation (MTF) method to detect and estimate the fecal coliform population in oyster meat samples. A Standard Plate Count is performed on dilutions of 1-100, 1-1000, 1-10,000, and 1-100,000 while the fecal Most Probable Number (MPN) uses 1-1, 1-10, 1-100, and 1-1000 dilutions.
Possible Results	Fecal coliform MPN/gram, APC/gm
Reference Range	N/A
Specimen Type	Raw un-shucked oysters.
Specimen Container(s):	Heavy duty bags tied and tagged to insure sample integrity.
Minimum volume accepted:	According to the size of the oysters, normally 15-20 oysters that would generate a raw meat weight of at least 200 grams.
Collection Instructions	Samples are collected according to established protocols directly from oyster growing beds.
Storage and Transport Instructions	Store and transport in clean iced cooler. Submitters are encouraged to hold the samples at 0-10°C during transport.
Causes for Rejection	Sample >24 hours old; No sample ID; Sample information form not complete.
Limitations of the Procedure	Overgrowth by non-coliform bacteria. Coliforms may be found with the absence of <i>E. coli</i> .
Interfering Substances	N/A
References	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. FDA/CFSAN National Shellfish Sanitation Program (NSSP) 2011 Microbiology Laboratory Guide. 2. Quality Assurance Manual for the Laboratory Analysis of Shellfish and Shell Growing Water LA DHH-OPH Laboratories.

Additional Information	Complete a Lab form 47. The name of the collector, date and time of collection and location of where sample was taken must be noted.
Release Date	11/2013
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